



Children



22 0 1

Chapter 1 by Eis Imperatore

/Can you... hear us?/

Sitting at my desk, pulling another all-nighter, empty coffee cup in hand, the other absently typing away.

I sigh in frustration, greatly annoyed that the boss had dumped yet another project on me, the only competent one in the team.

/Hello?/

I glance up. Did I hear something? There was a knock, and I jolt, startled. What was that?

No reply.

After staring at nothing like a fool, I turn back to my work, feeling my cheeks flush. Eh, I guess the sleepless nights were getting to me.

/Can you hear us?/

/Please?/

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Yep, I've definitely heard

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flows fur tively

That was a mistake. I can see the hands, the small hands, the hands that are unmistakably /children's/-

/Help us!/

Is that my blood rushing, heart pounding in my ears?

Or could that be the hands of children pounding on glass?

"What do you want?" I want to yell. In truth, it only comes out as a feeble croak.

There is only silence.

Oh dear, am I going mad?

/Can you hear us?/

A fist slams on the window.

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